



TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19122

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

June 2, 1971

Dear Prof. Ellsberg:

I recall with some enthusiasm your suggestion of a year ago that a legal memorandum ought to be sent to lower-echelon Government officials, outlining to them the nature of war crimes, as well as their possible complicity in them in the course of their work. Lack of successful coordination of groups concerned about war crimes has thus far prevented exact implementation of your idea. However, I have formulated a statement, "Declaration of Scholars and Professionals Concerned About U.S. War Crimes," which I believe would satisfactorily fulfill the objective. Richard Falk and Peter Weiss have assured me that the document covers the subject sufficiently for this purpose. To date, over 50 individuals (including Salvador Luria, George Wald, Rabbi Abraham Heschel, and Bishop Robert DeWitt) have signed it.

Would you consider undertaking to send this declaration to government officials under your signature? I believe this move by you could have some impact, especially if you can get one or two other former officials (Morton Halperin?) to join you, and especially if you held a press conference announcing your decision to act.

I would appreciate your considering this possibility and look forward to your response to it.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Mark Sacharoff
English Department

MS:jp